November, 1991. During these searches, the following assets were seized:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

	Assets	Seizur
1	Cash	16.85
2	Jewellery	76.05
3	Other assets	40.00
	(a) Demand Drafts	107.92
	(b) Share Certificates	1.59
	(c) Silver articles	149.51
	TOTAL: G.	242.41
	TOTAL:	

(d) Scrutiny of documents seized and follow up action as called for under the Income-tax Act have been taken up.

United Bank of India's Failure to Open New Branches in North-Eastern Zone

1939. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Bank of India has failed to open new branches in the North-Eastern Zone despite Reserve Bank of India's instructions; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Under Branch Licensing Policy 1985-90 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allotted 79 rural and semi-urban centres to United Bank of India for opening branches in the North-Eastern region and the bank had opened offices at 65 centres. Thus, it would be not correct to state that United Bank of India has failed to open branches in the North-Eastern region. However, the banks do face difficulties in opening branches due to lack of basic infrastructural facilities like non-availability of suitable premises, all weather road and communication facilities at the allotted centres.

Functioning of Zonal Office of United Bank of India at Guwahati

1940. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the zonal office of the United Bank of India at Guwahati has failed to fulfil its objectives due to the apathetic attitude of the bank's headquarters at Calcutta as a result of which the industrial relations of the Bank are suffering; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the situation and restore the credibility of the bank and the confidence of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) United Bank of India have reported that the Zonal Office of the Bank at Guwahati is functioning as a focal point of control. The working of the Zonal Office at Guwahati, like other zonal Offices, is reviewed by the Head Office every quarter and remedial action as warranted is taken. The bank has further reported that there is some shortage of staff in the North Eastern Zone mainly because of certain difficulties in posting personnel to that Zone from other Zones. However, efforts are being made to sort out these difficulties.

Extension of Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990

1941. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of farmers who have got benefit under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990, in different States of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have received proposal to give benefit of the scheme to the SC/ST members who have borrowed from Nationalised Banks through Corporation;

(c) whether Government also propose to give benefit of the Scheme to the borrowers who have paid their dues regularly;

(d) how much amount has been released to the State of Gujarat;

(e) whether the Central Government